

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claims 1-12 have been amended. Claims 13-18 are allowed.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112" on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 11 and 12 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that there is no proper antecedent basis for "the gripper system," "the transfer cylinder" (claim 11, lines 3-4) and "said gripper bar" (claim 12, lines 1-2).

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to be dependent on claims 8 and 9, respectively, in order to overcome the alleged deficiencies.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be

resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-7 and 11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Grützmacher et al. (US Pat. No. 5,481,971) in view of Hauck (US Pat. No. 5,862,757) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The references Grützmacher et al. and Hauck are owned by the corporate assignee of the instant application and Applicants are therefore very familiar with these references.

The rejection has been noted and claims 1-4 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 4 call for, inter alia:

said compensation elements being capable of actively moving a sheet with respect to a surface of a cylinder.

Claims 2-3 call for, inter alia:

said compensation elements being capable of actively moving a sheet with respect to a surface of said first transfer cylinder.

Grützmacher et al. disclose a printing press with mechanically decoupled printing unit groups being driven by a plurality of drive motors. Furthermore, a control unit is provided which is suitable for measuring angle of rotation deviations between the cylinders of adjacent printing unit groups, and the control unit commands the plurality of drive motors in such a way that the deviation between adjacent cylinders is at a minimum when a sheet is being transferred between these cylinders. However, Grützmacher et al. only disclose a variation of the rotational speed of cylinders, but do not provide any solution for moving a sheet on the surface of the cylinder.

Hauck discloses a special gripper device, which is suitable for varying instant of closure of a gripper device. By varying the instant of closure register errors can be compensated, but the sheet cannot be actively moved on the surface of the cylinder because the gripper devices can only

open but are not displaceable. Only the instant of closure and the closing force of the gripper devices can be varied.

Therefore, a combination of Grützmacher et al. and Hauck would not lead to compensation elements being capable of actively moving a sheet with respect to the surface of the cylinder, as recited in claims 1-4 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1-4. Claims 1-4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 4, they are believed to be patentable as well.

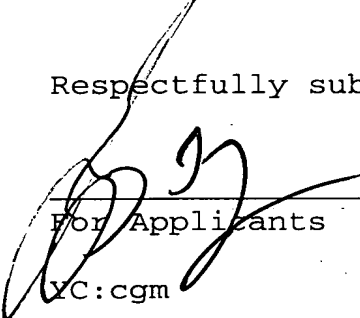
The reference Stark et al. (US Pat. No. 5,040,460), which is cited but not relied on by the Examiner, shows a mechanism to adjust a register drum in axial direction and circumferential direction. However, the register drum does not have any movable elements in order to actively move sheets on the surface of the cylinder. Instead, the whole register drum together with the grippers is laterally or circumferentially moved. There is certainly no possibility to move a sheet with respect to the surface of the register drum.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

YC:cgm

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